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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE A TASK  
FORCE TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF SCHOOL BULLYING.

1 WHEREAS, all students have the right to participate fully  
2 in the education process, free from bullying; and  
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4 WHEREAS, a safe and civil environment in school is  
5 necessary for students to learn and to meet high academic  
6 standards; and  
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8 WHEREAS, bullying, like other disruptive or violent  
9 behaviors, disrupts a student's ability to learn and a school's  
10 ability to educate its students in a safe environment; and  
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12 WHEREAS, the administrative rules of the Department of  
13 Education require any teacher, official, or other employee of  
14 the department who is a witness to school bullying, or who has  
15 reasonable cause to believe that school bullying has been  
16 committed or will be committed, against a student, teacher,  
17 official, or other employee of the department, or involving  
18 school property, must promptly report the incident to the  
19 principal or the principal's designee; and  
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21 WHEREAS, Act 214, Session Laws of Hawaii 2011, requires the  
22 Board of Education to oversee the Department of Education's  
23 compliance with administrative rules and statutes regarding  
24 bullying, including required reporting procedures; and  
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26 WHEREAS, despite the efforts of the Department of  
27 Education, studies indicate that bullying continues to be a  
28 problem in Hawaii public schools and that children with  
29 disabilities are two to three times more likely to be victims of  
30 bullying than their nondisabled peers; and  
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32 WHEREAS, the bullying of disabled students raises the  
33 specter of renewed federal court intervention in the  
34 administration of Hawaii's public schools, similar to what took  
35 place in the 1990's; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, because students learn by example, school  
3 administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers should be  
4 expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior, treat others with  
5 civility and respect, and refuse to tolerate bullying; now,  
6 therefore,  
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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
9 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
10 Session of 2013, that the Superintendent of Education is  
11 requested to convene a task force to address the issue of school  
12 bullying; and  
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Education  
15 is requested to serve as the chairperson of the task force; and  
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Education  
18 is requested to invite the following persons to serve as members  
19 on the task force:  
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- 21 (1) The Attorney General, or designee;
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- 23 (2) A member of the House of Representatives, to be  
24 appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
25 Representatives;
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- 27 (3) A member of the Senate, to be appointed by the  
28 President of the Senate;
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- 30 (4) A licensed attorney to be appointed by the President  
31 of the Hawaii State Bar Association;
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- 33 (5) Two public school teachers, to be appointed by the  
34 President of the Hawaii State Teachers Association;
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- 36 (6) Two parents of public school children, to be appointed  
37 by the Superintendent of Education; and  
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- 39 (7) Other interested persons, to be appointed by the  
40 Superintendent of Education; and  
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
43 requested to submit a report of its findings and  
44 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the



1 Legislature not later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
2 the Regular Session of 2014; and  
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
5 Bureau is requested to assist the task force in finalizing its  
6 report and any proposed legislation to implement the task  
7 force's recommendations; provided that the task force is  
8 requested to submit a draft of its report and any proposed  
9 legislation to the Bureau no later than November 1, 2013; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
12 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of  
13 Education, the Superintendent of Education, the President of the  
14 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the  
15 Attorney General, the President of the Hawaii State Bar  
16 Association, the President of the Hawaii State Teachers  
17 Association, and the Director of the Legislative Reference  
18 Bureau.  
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OFFERED BY: 

MAR 13 2013

